

Homes for Ukraine: Guidance for councils:

Applications to Homes for Ukraine for children who are not travelling with or joining their parent or legal guardian.

Background

From 15 July 2022, the Homes for Ukraine Scheme was expanded to eligible children who had already applied for visas through the scheme.

The process for new applications is different and requires the planned sponsor to first undergo safeguarding checks before an eligible child can begin their visa application. On 28 July 2022 a new online application form for planned sponsors to complete was launched. This enables planned sponsors to start their application process and begin safeguarding checks. Following this the visa application process for new applications from eligible children will open on 10 August 2022. The safeguarding checks on a sponsor must be completed before a new visa application for an eligible child can be started.

Children arriving under this scheme will be able to live in the UK for up to 3 years and access education, healthcare, benefits, employment (as appropriate under UK law) and other support.

Pre-arrival checks

Children and any accompanying adults arriving in the UK need to meet standard security checks prior to being considered for a visa. The Home Office will run the security checks as part of the sponsorship scheme approval process through Foundry. The Home Office will also run the initial criminal records checks against all adults in sponsors' households.

Eligibility and suitability checks on the prospective sponsors will be required prior to local approval as detailed below.

The checks that are completed before a child arrives are the same as those for all Homes for Ukraine sponsors but will be supplemented by a pre-application council-led assessment of the suitability of the prospective sponsorship arrangements for the eligible child.

Warrington Pathway

- Home Office record on Foundry that a child is requiring assessment
- Referral to MASH for private fostering assessment will only be made once Proof of parental consent and sponsorship arrangement consent is completed and signed is received.
- Refugee Asylum seeker well-being worker will refer to MASH.
- MASH screening to be completed as per usual screening processes including consideration of consent forms and will attempt to make direct contact with parents to confirm consent.

- Once consent is confirmed case to be allocated to social worker in CIN. If consent cannot be obtained as part of MASH screening and within PF timeframe the child will be allocated to CIN social work to continue efforts.
- If direct consent cannot be obtained social worker to consult with Ukraine DBS panel.
- Allocated social worker to complete PF assessment. As per usual framework.
- Completed PF assessment will be presented to Ukraine DBS panel for final sign off and approval.
- Approval will be recorded on foundry and HO will then complete visa arrangements.

In carrying out the assessment you should refer to: [Private Fostering \(proceduresonline.com\)](https://proceduresonline.com)

In England the private fostering framework only applies to children up to 16 (or 18 for children with a disability), and where the child is not being accommodated by a parent or legal guardian (or other person with parental responsibility) or a relative (as defined in the Children Act 1989). However, given the additional vulnerability of this group of children and young people, councils are asked to carry out these assessments for all children entering the UK under this expanded scheme.

If a private foster arrangement breaks down the parents should be informed immediately and the Ukrainian government informed by the Ukrainian embassy.

If parents cannot be contacted when a placement breaks the child must be assessed as a child in care until alternative arrangements with parents can be confirmed.

Within 24 hours of the child arriving the social worker should undertake a welfare visit.

Once the Private Fostering Assessment has been completed the social worker will arrange to meet with the Homes for Ukraine Foundry Lead – could be invited to a child in need meeting rather than a separate meeting.

NB. Where a child has come to the UK with their parent and subsequently becomes subject of Private Fostering Arrangements the social worker should complete the **'UK Sponsorship Arrangement Consent form (children already in the UK)**.

This form can be found here: [Local Resources \(proceduresonline.com\)](https://proceduresonline.com) in the 'Children in Particular Circumstance | Children From Aboard